

CHAPTER 42
STRIPED BASS
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DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Chapter 42 - Striped Bass

42.01 Statewide Striped Bass Size Restrictions, Harvest Methods

1. Method of Taking.

- A. It is unlawful to fish for or take striped bass in territorial waters, except by hook and line. It is unlawful to use a gaff to land any striped bass.
- B. It is unlawful to use multiple (more than two) barbed or barbless treble hooks on any artificial lure or flies while fishing for striped bass in territorial waters.
- C. It is unlawful to use treble hooks when using bait.
The following becomes effective January 1, 2013:
It is unlawful to use any hook other than a circle hook when using bait. For purposes of this chapter the definition of circle hook means "a non-offset hook with a point that points 90° back toward the shaft of the hook".

Exception: Rubber or latex tube rigs will be exempt from the circle hook restriction as long as they conform with the following: the lure must consist of a minimum of 8" of latex or rubber tubing with a single hook protruding from the end portion of the tubing where bait may be attached. Use of treble hooks is not allowed with these rigs.
- D. Any striped bass legally taken from the territorial waters shall be immediately released alive into the water from which it was taken, or killed at once. Any striped bass killed becomes part of the daily bag limit in accordance with Chapter 42.02.

2. Size Restrictions.

It is unlawful to take or possess striped bass which are less than 28 inches long total length. It is unlawful to possess striped bass unless the fish are whole with head on and are 28 inches or greater.

42.02 Striped Bass - Limits, Personal Use

It is unlawful for any person to fish for, take or possess striped bass in or from territorial waters, except for personal use. The sale of wild striped bass caught for personal use or by commercial fisheries in other States or jurisdictions is prohibited in the State of Maine.

It is unlawful for any person to take or possess more than one (1) striped bass each day which may be 28 inches in total length or greater.

Exception for Hybrid Striped Bass:

This Section shall not apply to the possession and sale of hybrid striped bass under the following conditions:

- 1. Hybrids (*Morone saxatilis* x *Morone chrysops*). Whole aquaculture raised striped bass shall have a tag or label affixed to each fish container holding fish.
- 2. Fillets. Fillets from aquaculture-raised hybrid striped bass shall have the skin attached.
- 3. Tags and Labels. All tags and labels affixed to containers of whole aquaculture-raised hybrid striped bass and filets from aquaculture-raised hybrid striped bass shall be clearly marked "Hybrid Striped Bass" and provide the following information:

- a. State of origin
 - b. Name and address of shipping and receiving dealers
 - c. Permit number of shipping and receiving dealers
 - d. Date shipped
 - e. Net weight of container
4. Nomenclature. It is unlawful for any person to market, promote, advertise, or sell whole hybrid striped bass or hybrid striped bass fillets as "striped bass." Only the term "hybrid striped bass" shall be used when marketing, promoting, advertising, or selling at retail hybrid striped bass and hybrid striped bass fillets.

42.03 Striped Bass - Closed Area and Closed Season

- A. Except as provided in 42.03 (B), from the 1st day of December to June 30, inclusive, it is unlawful for any person to take and retain any striped bass from the tidal waters of the Kennebec River inside and upstream of a line drawn from the outer extremity of Cape Small to the outer extremity of Salter Island, thence to the outer extremity of Cape Newagen and including Merrymeeting Bay and tributaries, the tidal waters of the Sheepscot River, Androscoggin River, Sasanoa River, and all other tidal tributaries of the Kennebec River. From July 1 through November 30, statewide regulations apply to this area.
- B. Special Hook and Release Season/Area. From May 1 to June 30, it shall be lawful to fish for striped bass in the waters described in 42.03(A) with a hook and line and single hooked artificial lures. Any striped bass caught during this special season/area fishery shall be immediately released and returned alive, without further injury, to the waters from which they were taken.
- C. Waters Seasonally Closed to the Use of Bait. From May 1 to June 30, inclusive, it is unlawful to possess or use bait while hook and line fishing for any finfish species in waters described in 42.03(A). During this closed season (May 1 to June 30), possession of hook and line fishing gear and bait on waters described in 42.03(A) is prima facie evidence of violating this regulation. For purposes of this section, "bait" is defined as any live or dead marine organism, or part thereof.

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EFFECTIVE DATE:
May 15, 1989

AMENDED:
June 11, 1990
May 10, 1992 – Section 1 and 3
May 25, 1994 – Section 3
August 9, 1995 – Section 2
April 21, 1997 – Section 1 and 2
September 15, 1997 – Section 1 and 3
April 23, 2000 – Sections 1, 2 and 3
December 20, 2010 – Sections 01 and 02
April 16, 2013 – Section 01 (1)(C)
May 13, 2015 – Section 01 (2); 2